THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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DNR Reports . . .
by Glenn Therres
...and Gwen Brewer

Recently, concerns were raised by the birding community about the potential impacts of wind energy development in Maryland. Wind power involves the production of energy as large turbines turn in response to the wind. We have become involved in this issue and would like to explain the process involved in the State's decision regarding wind power development.

One way in which bird populations are impacted indirectly is through our use of energy. For example, a recent study suggests that acidic precipitation or deposition may play a role in declines of some songbirds. The use of alternative energy sources may help minimize these impacts, as well as lessen our "footprint" on the environment in general. In Maryland, the best potential sites for wind power development occur in the mountains of Western Maryland and at some distance offshore in the Atlantic Ocean. These same sites, however, are important to bird populations and concerns about negative impacts of wind power facilities have been raised. The MOS Conservation Committee report in the last issue of the Yellowthroat summarized these concerns for two proposed wind turbine projects in Western Maryland, and presented excerpts from two letters of concern.

As stewards of our natural resources, DNR reviews potential impacts to birds and other species of conservation concern and recommends licensing conditions that address these concerns. How did we achieve these objectives and what was its role in the process to review wind power facilities?

Electric power generators must obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to build or modify power plants and transmission lines in the State. As part of this licensing process, applicants must address a full range of environmental, engineering, socioeconomic, planning, and cost issues. The application for this certificate goes through an adjudicatory process, whereby the Public Service Commission receives testimony from the applicant (power company), the Power Plant Research Program on behalf of the State, and any other interveners. The Power Plant Research Program (PPRP), an agency within DNR, coordinates the review of technical input and prepares one set of testimony through consultation with eight state entities (Office of Smart Growth, Energy Administration, and the Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation, Planning, Environment, Agriculture, and Business and Economic Development). The Power Plant Research Program was established under the Power Plant Siting Act of 1971 to "ensure that Maryland meets its electricity demands at reasonable cost while protecting the State's valuable natural resources".

After the two wind power companies were granted a "fast track" schedule by the Public Service Commission, PPRP worked with all of the State entities to develop testimony that would address everything from economic impacts to air

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And Now, On To Other Things...
by Norm Saunders

This is my 49th issue as editor of ***MD Yellowthroat***. When I picked up the reins from Mark Hoffman back in 1993, I figured that I would probably be good for 4 or 5 years. Now here I am, only one issue away from a decade of service to MOS. The job has been rewarding, allowing me to meet folks from across the State, people I otherwise might not have had the privilege of knowing. I have served under six different presidents of MOS and spent two years myself as president. Ten years is enough for anyone—old ideas grow stale, new ones don't come as readily, and patience, never one of my strong suits, has a tendency to wear thin.

I will edit the May issue so that I can get to that magic number of 50, but after that MOS will need someone else to take on the ***Yellowthroat***. You have to be able to deal with many types of contributors, some who write well and others who need a little help, but all who have something important to say to the membership. You need to be facile with the personal computer and be willing to purchase and learn the software required. Most of all, you have to have a deep love of MOS and its people, warts and all.

Personally, I'm working to fill Bob Ringler's shoes as regional editor for the Maryland/Delaware Christmas Bird Counts, a job it will take me a few more years to get comfortable in and I'll continue to maintain the MOS Annual List Report. Otherwise, I plan to do a lot more birding with Fran and focus on our growing Eastern Shore lists of sightings.

If you would like to find out more about the technical considerations, by all means give me a call and we can chat. I can be reached at 301-989-9035 (evenings, before 8:30) or at 202-691-5707 (days, during the week) or via e-mail at marshhawk@att.net. If you want to talk about the goals for the MOS organization and how you might fit into them, call MOS President Paul Zucker.

We have another vacancy to announce as well. Les Eastman, the Calendar Editor for the Yellowthroat and for the MOS Website has also expressed his tiredness after ten years of filling this busy and not-too-visible position. As you can see, this is a great opportunity for people who have wanted to contribute more to MOS but were never sure how. Call Paul Zucker today and let him know if either of these important MOS positions interest you.

Chapter Chatter
by Martha Waugh

Harford Club Reels from Successive Losses— Charles (Charlie) Flora, husband of the Harford Club president Carol Flora, died on December 3, 2002 after nearly a year's battle with leukemia. Carol and Charlie had been married for 40 years. Charlie was born in Roanoke, Virginia and had retired from General Motors after 35 years of service as a mechanical engineer. As a child he was active in 4-H and judged livestock at national levels. An avid golfer, Charlie also collected stamps and coins, enjoyed working in his yard and traveling. He served as a deacon at Christ Our King Presbyterian Church and was active in church affairs. In addition to Carol and his mother, he is survived by a son, Michael Flora of New Windsor; a daughter, Leslie Boyle, of Mount Airy; a brother, the Rev. James Flora of Frederick; and two grandchildren, Alyson and Tessa Flora of New Windsor. Contributions may be made to Christ Our King Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund, 10 Lexington Road, Bel Air, MD 21014 or to the Maryland Chapter Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 8600 LaSalle Road, Baltimore, MD 21286.

Dave Seitz died of a heart attack on September 6, 2002. Dave and his wife, Macrina, were active member of MOS since 1991. Dave had been an Eagle Scout and brought that experience to his role as a leader when his sons were Scouts. Again his interest helped when he became at volunteer in the Bird Banding Program at Harford Glen. Jean Williams and Eileen Frey in a moving memorial to Dave said, "Enthusiastically he shared his knowledge and love of biding .. always unselfishly giving of this time and his scope. We remember Dave as he worked in the mist nets. A follower of Dr. Doolittle, not only did he carry on a continuous lively conver-

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Call for Poster Presentations at the MOS Annual Conference

by Gwen Brewer

The MOS Research Committee sponsors presentations at our annual conferences. The next conference is scheduled for Sat. May 24- Mon. May 26, 2003 at the Bolger Center in Potomac (Montgomery County). Again this year, the research session will include only poster presentations, which will be displayed during the Wine and Cheese Social on Sunday evening. Poster presenters are encouraged to be near their posters at that time to answer questions on their research. If you would like to share the results of any research on the natural history of Maryland bird life, please contact Gwen Brewer (Chair) as soon as possible by e-mail at glbrewer@comcast.net, or by phone at (301) 843-3524. If you have data to summarize and present from banding activities, hawk watches, or even small research projects, please take advantage of this opportunity to share your results with other MOS members!

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For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the May/June issue are:

May/Aug Calendar Activities:
March 25

All Other Submissions:
April 1

CHAPTER CHATTER

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sation with the birds as he removed them from the nets, but they answered him in no uncertain 'chirps.' Those fine-tuned big hands so gently removed and held the birds. And that toothpick that was ever present in his cap helped get the netting untangled from the birds. …he always displayed a positive attitude and a willingness to help. We remember Dave as our gregarious companion. Webster's Dictionary tells us gregarious …means sociable, living in a flock. We're glad and fortunate that Dave was a member of our flock." Donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, Maryland Council, P.O. Box 17025, Baltimore, MD 21297-0191.

Dr. Bill McIntosh, a member of the Club since 1983 died of cancer at the age of 78 on September 28, 2002. Bill was born in West Virginia, a veteran of WWII and a graduate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He received his doctorate in biology in 1954 from the University of Michigan. He taught and did research at the Ohio State University before joining the Civil Service in 1962. He worked at Fort Huachuca, Arizona and Aberdeen Proving Ground as a statistician until his retirement in 1986. He was an avid gardener as well as a birdwatcher. He was president of the Harford Club from 1989 until 1991 and he organized and monitored competitive Warbler Walks from 1986 until 1993. His wife Joan died in 1995. He is survived by three children: James Mcintosh of Hollister, California; Laura McIntosh of Bethesda, MD; and Ellen Rowe of Alpharetta, GA; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and his special friend, Dawn Duggan. The Club made a donation to the MOS Sanctuary fund in his memory.

Tri-County Member John V. Dennis Dies—Carol Broderick reports: "The birding world and Tri-County Bird club will have a great void with the loss of noted ornithologist and author John V. Dennis who died on Dec. 1, 2002 at his home in Princess Anne, MD. He was 86. His book "The Complete Guide to Bird Feeding", first published in 1975, helped to popularize bird feeding among suburban Americans. Two subsequent books, "Beyond the Birdfeeder" and "The Wildlife Gardener", provided succinct guides to homeowners on how to cultivate their gardens in order to attract wildlife." During WWII, he was a radar technician with the famous Flying Tigers in Yunnan, China, where he birded in the rugged mountains and valleys of Western China. Carol continues "Throughout his life, John was a tireless conservationist who sought out endangered flora and fauna as a means to promote preservation to such areas as the Congary Swamp in South Carolina, the Big Thicket of East Texas and the moors of Nantucket where he also conducted mist-netting of migratory birds throughout the 1960's. John was always anxious to share his knowledge by leading local bird trips, providing club programs and adding to social events with his special humor. Our condolences are extended to his wife, Mary Alice."

Allegany Club Member Puts a Maryland Bird in the White House—Austrian born artist Hilmar Gottesthal, who now makes his home in Flintstone, Maryland, was invited to by the Maryland State Arts Council to submit a Christmas tree ornament for the White House Christmas tree that would represent the State of Maryland. Hilmar was quoted, "I was surprised and delighted with the opportunity to create a unique piece of art just for this occasion especially since the theme for our tree ornament was Maryland birds. It happens that I am a member of the Allegany County Birders Club so I'm familiar with many of our fine feathered friends" Deciding which bird and in what medium to portray it were the hardest decisions. He feared the tree would be full of the usual Cardinal, nuthatch, Blue Jan, chickadee, and titmouse population. "My fiancee Penny Knobel-Besa who is an avid bird watcher, mentioned the Evening Grosbeak, a species that sometimes winters in Maryland. The male's markings and coloring of black and gold are not only very striking but are also the Maryland State colors. So this seemed a perfect choice." Once the species was picked, Hilmer decided that stained glass would be the best art form to portray this particular bird and to meet the size and weight limitations. The Christmas tree ornament will become part of the White House's permanent collection. Hilmar was invited to the artist's reception held by First Lady Laura Bush on December 4, 2002 at the White House.

Carroll Club Members Celebrate a Fifth—Tammy and Marc Schwab treated themselves to a trip out West in October 2002 to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. Tammy reports, "We visited several sites in Nevada, Arizona and Utah. The major points of interest that we explored were The Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park and Red Rocks. Each area seemed vastly different from the previous. Life birds of note per area included: Grand Canyon & Vicinity - Stellars Jay, Scrub Jay, Pinyon Jay, Black Rosy Finch, Brown-capped Rosy Finch, Juniper Titmouse, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Mountain Chickadee. Red Rocks & Vicinity: Cactus Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, Rock Wren, Gambel's Quail, Phainopepla, Black Phoebe, Inca Dove, Verdin, and Bushtit. Zion & Bryce Nat. Parks & Vicinity: Canyon Wren, Spotted Towhee, Clark's Grebe, and Greater Roadrunner. Our most coveted trip bird was the Gambel's Quail. We spent a great deal of time in hot, scrub desert hoping to find our target life bird. All week, we were hopeful, but getting a bit frustrated and doubtful. The second to last day of the trip we were hiking at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, just outside of Las Vegas. We heard a bit of shuffling through the scrub...and then a burst of many wings! This was created by approximately 30 Gambel's who flew over us and landed near by. We were able to enjoy views of the quail as they scratched the desert floor. The California Condor has recently been successfully re-released into the Grand Canyon. We were not fortunate enough to have a sighting, but did see the scientists tracking the birds location through radio antennae. With any luck, the Condors will be well-established by the time we return to the area for another visit. We had a wonderful trip with a nice mixture of birdwatching and sightseeing, and are anxious to return to the area soon."

Baltimore Member Reports on a Bird House Visitor—Elise Kreise reports that her Mom has a new house bird in her home in Cataument, just south of the Cape Cod canal. She often sees Osprey around the pond, but on September 20, she had a kitchen visitor. "She heard the wing beats before she saw the bird. It hurtled in through the double kitchen windows as if escaping from something. It veered in front of her

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DNR REPORTS

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quality impacts, and to craft suggested permit conditions under which anticipated negative impacts could be reduced or eliminated. In order to do this, PPRP contracted reviews of ecological impacts, including bird and bat impacts, terrestrial resources, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, water resources and air quality and climate; visual, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts; and noise impacts. They also organized meetings with the wind power companies, people concerned about avian impacts, other interveners in the cases, and scientists with experience in avian wind power impacts.

Members of the Natural Heritage Program provided input at these meetings, reviewed materials on ecological impacts, and suggested changes to the State testimony prepared by PPRP. Our personnel have also been involved in the ongoing review of the specific locations of proposed wind turbines and associated construction activities, so that impacts to all rare, threatened, and endangered species can be minimized. As a result of this review, so far several towers have been eliminated from tower arrays or their locations shifted due to the presence of state species of conservation concern (such as long-tailed shrew and timber rattlesnake).

Through this review and permitting process, with input from diverse partners, PPRP developed a rigorous set of conditions for the permit and negotiated the toughest deal to date for the wind industry. Although current evidence suggests that most wind power facilities cause minimal avian mortality, negative impacts on birds have been difficult to assess for Western Maryland ridges due to a lack of specific information, especially for nocturnal migrants. Early in the process, PPRP funded a study to begin to fill these data gaps, and the recent settlement of the two western Maryland wind power cases will put into place more extensive monitoring activities over the next several years. Pre-operational studies to monitor over-flights of birds, and post-construction studies to monitor bird and bat mortality will be carried out.

DNR will continue to be involved in this process by approving the micro-siting of wind turbines, assisting with the development of protocols for new monitoring studies, and approving those protocols. We look forward to working with the birding community to promote alternative energy sources while protecting our natural resources. For more information on the Western Maryland wind power cases, see the information for cases number 8938 and 8939 at www.psc.state.md.us; for more information on wind power impacts, see www.nationalwind.org.

MOS Activities, March-April 2003

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Tuesday, April 29

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Debbie Terry, at 410-252-8771 or gt5s@erols.com.

Wednesday, April 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Wednesday Evenings At Fort McHenry. Canceled if raining. Meet 8:00 p.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands

CHAPTER CHATTER

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canary (who was started into speechlessness) and made a U-turn to land with its talons on a screen door, madly beating its wings before retreating to a large storage shelf. Elise's Mom thought better of walking by it to open the door. Rather, she approached the back door from outside the house, pulling it towards her. After a minute or so, the bird took off. And that's a good thing, because she doesn't have a clue how to cook an Osprey!"

A New Birder In Far Away Spain—Howard Youth, Montgomery Chapter member, has a new son, Thomas Edward born on November 27, 2002. Howard, his wife Marta, and daughter Alexandra are in Spain. He reports that on a recent trip to nearby mountains there, he saw a first-winter Golden Eagle chased by ravens, jays, a late Booted Eagle, and down in the lowlands, a late immature Little Bittern. A kestrel cruised by his apartment window recently "providing a nice break from wood-pigeons and magpies."

Safari in Kenya—Gisela Locherer of Montgomery reports: "On the way to Samburu National Park in Northern Kenya, we passed through the Rift Valley, stopped at Lake Naivasha (which has lost its charm because along its shores are masses of greenhouses for growing flowers for export), continued to Lake Nakuru - still home to millions of Lesser Flamingos and thousands of Pelicans- and to Lake Baringo. How wonderful to sit in the shade of an acacia tree, read a book, or just enjoy the beauty of the scenery around you and be free from any pressure of having to do this or that. Just collect some firewood for the evening, which I did when strolling around in search of birds. Samburu was particularly good for birds and elephants which come to the river in the mornings or late afternoons to drink and enjoy splashing about in the water. There wasn't as much game here as we remembered, but then Samburu has had serious problems with poachers."

Howard Member Almost Dines on Crow—Eva Sunnell, long-time stalwart for Howard's annual counts, almost won a nice dinner for two in a contest run by the Columbia Magazine. In the October's "Fall to Pieces" puzzle where readers were asked to take a common phrase dealing with Halloween, Thanksgiving, or autumn, and then remove, add or change one letter, and redefine the meaning, Eva was in the final competition. Her entry was Scarecrow/Scared crow (when it gets West Nile virus).

Painted Bunting Recruits New Members to Talbot County Chapter—Les Roslund reports on an innovative recruiting strategy: "In December of 2002, an immature male Painted Bunting became a regular visitor at the feeders of two Talbot County residents. The hosts reported the bird to the Talbot County Chapter, and offered our people the chance to see the bunting, even though that meant bringing of us into their house. The little bird had chosen a feeding spot that could be seen only from the window of their living room. Several club members took up the offer and got great views of the bird. Timing of the St Michaels Christmas Count happened to occur while the bird was still present, so it made that list too. Apparently this was the first recorded sighting of a Painted Bunting in Talbot County. The hosts took splendid pictures, and have provided excellent documentation of the sighting for the MD/DC Records Committee and for the Christmas Count Review Committee. As a direct result of the great fun brought by this sighting, the hosts, Lorraine and Gerry Rollefson, have now joined the Talbot County Chapter. That little bird gave us the chance share our zest for birding with these folks, and they liked what they saw, so they joined. Welcome indeed! And thanks, little bird - and next time come earlier and stay longer. "

Members of Howard & Carroll Clubs Travel to Mexico—Dave and Maureen Harvey of Carroll/Howard traveled on a birding tour to the states of Colima and Jalisco in Mexico for a week in January. After a few days birding the coastal and lowland areas of Jalisco, they went to Colima to bird the foothills and highlands. They birded the high saddle road between the quiescent Vulcan de Nieve (snow) and smoke-puffing Vulcan de Fuego (fire) and traveled about two-thirds of the way to the peak of Vulcan de Fuego on a narrow, winding dirt road. They also witnessed a huge earthslide on this peak while birding in the foothills. During the trip, Dave sighted his 2500th world species, a covey of Long-Tailed Wood-Partridges. The Harveys' luck continued after the trip as well; the day after returning home an earthquake shook Colima that measured over 7 points on the Richter scale!

Rick Blom
May 5, 1947 to December 11, 2002

A quote from Bill Thompson, III, Editor of ***Bird Watcher's Digest***:

"I was saddened to hear of Rick Blom's death on December 11, 2002. Rick was one of North America's most highly respected and knowledgeable bird authorities. He was a widely published author, a former editor of ***Birding*** magazine, and a chief consultant for the first two editions of the ***National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America***. He was a contributing editor and columnist for ***Bird Watcher's Digest*** and many of our other publications. But these accomplishments don't really convey how truly special Rick Blom was."

Bill goes on to list in great detail many of the accomplishments of Rick Blom. What he doesn't talk much about is Rick's presence here in his native state of Maryland. If any of you have encountered Rick, in the field, in the classroom, at a chapter meeting, you will not have forgotten the experience. To get a better feel for Rick's long-time contributions to Maryland birding, I have asked Bob Ringler and Gene Scarpulla to write a remembrance of Rick which we hope to feature in the next issue of the ***Yellowthroat***.

The Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas: Results at the End of the First Year of Field Work

by Walter Ellison

Now that the first field season of the second Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and the District of Columbia has been completed, it is time to take stock of our accomplishments thus far. As of the end of 2002 there are bird reports for 592 blocks, nearly 50% of the 1285 blocks in the state and District. The strongest atlas coverage in 2002 was from the more populous and heavily birded piedmont and lower Potomac counties, however there was also strong first year coverage in Garrett, Dorchester and Wicomico counties. The average number of bird species per atlas block was 44 – this is a good start when one considers the final average of 73 per block for 1983 to 1987. A total of 194 bird species was reported in all atlas blocks receiving coverage in 2002. This compares very favorably to the grand total of 201 species with 194 confirmed as nesters in the 1980s.

We also have the distinction of being the first atlas project to use an internet data entry system hosted by the National Biological Information Infrastructure at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Being first means there have been some growing pains and delays that had to be worked out since the end of the atlas season in October. We do not have all of the data collected in 2002 yet entered but we hope to be caught up by March.

We already have some information that suggests change in bird ranges and populations in just the first year of field work. One very clear decline is that of our native quail, the Northern Bobwhite. This gamebird was found in 84% of atlas blocks in the 1980s but was only observed in 26% of the blocks in the 2002 sample. It seems likely the quail has declined severely, especially in central Maryland and the Western Shore. Bobwhite is also now scarce in parts of the rural Eastern Shore. The Kentucky and Hooded warblers have declined in central Maryland because they have lost nesting cover as deer have browsed away the shrub layer in the forests in that part of the state. It is also worrisome that the Baltimore Oriole was only reported in 33% of atlas blocks in 2002. This may be partly an artifact of its preference for localized floodplain habitat and sometimes retiring habits, especially late in the nesting season after the males have ceased singing. We need more field work to verify that the state bird is less widespread than in the 1980s.

On a more positive note, many birds of prey are more widespread than in the 1980s. A good example is the Cooper's Hawk, found in only 177 total blocks in 1983 to 1987, largely in western Maryland. The "Coop" was found in 103 blocks in 2002, although most of our coverage was in eastern Maryland where the bird was rare in the 1980s. Several birds that are typical of the warmer parts of Maryland such as Red-bellied Woodpecker and Carolina Wren have become more widespread in the western counties over the last twenty years and this is reflected in 2002 atlas data from Garrett County.

The top ten most widespread bird species reported in 2002 were, in descending order, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, American Crow, Mourning Dove, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Mockingbird, Indigo Bunting, and Common Grackle. Of course these rankings will change with increasing coverage; Barn Swallow and Gray Catbird were on the final "top ten" in 1983 to 1987.

There were reports of several rarities seldom confirmed nesting in the state. Hermit Thrush, confirmed only once in the 1983 to 1987 atlas, was confirmed by MOS Conference atlas observers who found at least three nests - the first seen in 80 years in Maryland. Garrett County Coordinator Fran Pope reported that Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was confirmed nesting there after not being confirmed in the previous atlas. Not even reported during the last atlas, a pair of Long-eared Owls was found nesting in Garrett County by Marshall Iliff as he scouted for his record setting Maryland Big Day in May. A Pine Siskin nest was discovered in a Garrett County motel courtyard in early May, this diminutive winter finch was first confirmed breeding in Maryland after the last atlas ended. A male Sedge Wren in Garrett County, seen by many during the MOS Conference, was seen carrying nest material, unfortunately this is not a confirmation for a wren. Male wrens often build so-called "dummy nests" that never receive eggs, so the seldom-used "B" code for wren dummy nests and woodpeckers building roost holes had to be used in this case.

The 2003 atlas field season is already underway with the hooting of territorial Great Horned and Barred owls. I encourage birders who

Sanctuary Committee Report

by Dotty Mumford

Carey Run Ice Damage — There is still a lot of damage at Carey Run, from last November's ice storm, that needs to be cleared up. Doug Parker will be heading some forays to do this work when the winter weather abates – probably in April. If you have a chainsaw and are willing to help, please contact Doug at 301-663-1909 or parkernkda@aol.com.

Workdays — We have three workdays coming up. Please consider coming out to help maintain our sanctuaries. Workdays not only give you the opportunity to get to know the sanctuaries, but also to enjoy the fellowship of MOS members from other chapters.

Mill Creek Sanctuary, 150 acres located near Wye Mills in Talbot County, will have a workday on **Saturday, March 29, 2003.** We want to reestablish the trails and do general clean up of the parking lot and shelter and do some thinning of the vegetation along the road. Work is to begin at 8:00 AM. Bring a lunch as there is enough work to do to go beyond the noon hour. Please call Jan Reese at 410-745-2875 for more information and to let him know that you are coming.

Irish Grove Sanctuary, 1600 acres located in Somerset County, will have a workday on **Saturday, April 5, 2003.** Work to be done will include removal of large shrubs in the field, trail maintenance and a variety of small tasks. For those who would like to make this a weekend trip, there is room in the house or you can bring a tent to set up in the yard. A midday meal is provided on Saturday. Please contact Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336 for more information and to let her know that you are coming.

Carey Run Sanctuary, 162 acres located in Garrett County just south of Finzel, will have a workday on **Saturday, April 26, 2003**. Work to be done will include the annual house and yard cleanup, trail maintenance and some erosion controls. There will probably still be tree damage from the ice storm to be cleaned up, so chainsaws will be handy. A midday meal is provided for the workers. Overnight stays are available in the house or bring a tent. For further information and/or to let them know you are coming contact either Barbara Gaffney at 301-895-4646 (after April 7) or gaffneyg@mindspring.com or Doug Parer at 301-663-1909 or parkernkda@aol.com.

Sanctuary Committee Meeting — The Sanctuary Committee will be meeting in June to go over the recommendations of the Partner's In Flight and the November 9 Retreat. **If you were not able to attend the November Retreat and would like to share your concerns about the future of our sanctuaries,** please contact Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336 or 1900 Generals Hwy., Annapolis, MD 21401.

Birding the Shore Lagoons and Landfills

by Sam Dyke

Wastewater treatment lagoons and public landfills (aka dumps) are not your picture postcard birding locations, but they do offer birders opportunities to find species that are uncommon or rare. Wastewater ponds are often migrant traps for waterbirds passing through areas lacking similar natural habitats. Landfills with trash dumping operations attract rare winter gulls and a variety of raptors interested in the rodent populations.

Wastewater lagoons are not open for public visitation, but birders can usually get permission to enter by asking at the facility office. This permission is the result of other birders scrupulously following the facility's restrictions, so be certain to do the same on your visit. Most lagoons are open only on weekdays (except holidays), but entry can sometimes be secured in advance for weekend trips by contacting the office.

Landfills usually are open throughout the week, and hours are posted at the entrances. Some parts of landfills may be closed and permission should be obtained. The following sites have yielded good birds in the past, and should be visited when birding in the area. The directions are based on pages in the **Maryland/Delaware Atlas & Gazetteer**, by DeLorme. *(ed. note: Even if you don't go to any of the sites mentioned in this article, by all means make sure you have a copy of the DeLorme MD/DE map. It will be invaluable as you trip around Maryland in your search for birds.)*

Wicomico County Landfill (**DeLorme** pg. 33) — Located about 2 miles northwest of Salisbury, at the junction of Owens Branch and Brick Kiln Roads. Open 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, this large landfill is a dependable winter location for Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and occasionally hosts Iceland, Thayer's, and Glaucous Gulls. Truck traffic is heavy at the dumping spot and caution is advised. Birding is best done from nearby access roads. Water-filled excavation sites at the landfill attract resting gulls and waterfowl, but are often off-limits to vehicle entry.

Worcester County Landfill (**DeLorme** pg. 35) — Located about 4 miles northeast of Snow Hill off US Route 113 at Central Site Lane. Open Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. "Winter" gulls are sometimes found among the numerous Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls. Adjacent landfill ponds are attractive to shorebirds, which include a recent sighting of Ruff.

Pocomoke Sewage Treatment Plant (**DeLorme** pg. 26) — Located on Dunn Swamp Road at Pocomoke Beltway, about 1-1/2 miles south of Pocomoke City. Open weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. The lagoons can be viewed from the office area. Seasonally expected waterfowl include Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Ring-necked, and Ruddy Ducks. Both White-fronted Goose and Common Merganser have been reported on several occasions. Migrant shorebirds and swallows should be looked for at the ponds.

Tyson Foods Wastewater Lagoon, (**DeLorme**, pg. 35) — Located about ½-mile north of Berlin, southwest for the junction of US Routes 50 and 113. Limited viewing can be had from the shoulder of the exit ramps. These ponds often have large numbers of gulls in winter and swallows in migration. Waterfowl frequently gather here when other waters are frozen.

Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Lagoons (**DeLorme** pg. 43) — Located about 2 miles south of Hurlock. From MD Rt. 331, turn east of Skeet Rd, and take the second road on the right to the plant gate and entrance ramp to the ponds. The four large lagoons are easily scanned from access roads. A variety of ducks, geese, and swans are seasonally present, including summering Ruddy Ducks. Recent birds of interest include Eared Grebes, Ross's Goose, and Black-headed Gull. Although the lagoon banks are steep and rocky, the grassy edges of the access roadways attract migrant shorebirds, especially American Golden Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper.

Easton Wastewater Treatment Plant (**DeLorme** pg. 42) — Located about 3 miles southeast of Easton, the plant is reached by driving east on MD Route 331, then right on Chilcutt Road to a T-intersection, then right on Dover Neck Road to South Dover Road, then left on South Dover to the entrance. Open weekdays 7:00 am to 4:00 p.m. (except holidays.). The ponds and surrounding wet areas are attractive to waterfowl, shorebirds, and gulls. A variety of rails, including the rare Black Rail, have been found.

Ridgely Wastewater Treatment Plant (**DeLorme** pg. 51) — Located about ¾ miles northwest of Ridgely, on the north side of Bell Road. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and swallows frequent the ponds in season. A spray irrigation system nearby on Cow Barn Road is also attractive to migrant shorebirds.

These lagoons should be visited during and after periods of severe weather such as extreme cold and strong windstorms. Who knows what unusual birds might take refuge on their calm and unfrozen waters! *(ed. note: This article is reprinted from the Tri-County Bird Club Newsletter with the kind permission of the author.)*

New Date and Kenn Kaufman for 2003 MOS Conference in Montgomery County!

by Mike Callahan

The new date for the 2003Annual MOS Conference and Business Meeting is

May 24–26, the Memorial Day Holiday Weekend. Still to be held at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac, it will be from Saturday midday through Monday midday. Please mark your calendar now to join us for a great weekend of birding.

The change was made to take advantage of lower rates for food and accommodation, and will allow for better traffic conditions on trips. It has also made it possible for us to obtain Kenn Kaufman as the Keynote Speaker. Mr. Kaufman will also present a butterfly workshop on Saturday afternoon and will sign books following the Saturday dinner keynote speech. He is also donating items to the silent auction and raffle.

Your Conference has not been held in Montgomery County for over ten years. Local Conference Coordinator Mike Bowen along with the hosting Chapters of Montgomery County, Howard County and Patuxent are sure you will enjoy the facility and the food. They have planned a busy weekend of birding, workshops and more for you. We expect fewer people will have to take off from work for the conference due to the new holiday weekend dates.

Montgomery County and the surrounding areas are packed with great birding area treasures. Field trip coordinator Linda Friedland has been hard at work organizing an extensive schedule of trips. There so many terrific birding spots in Montgomery County that the chapter recently published its ***Birder's Guide to Montgomery County Maryland***, and many posts on the MD OSPREY have mentioned such places too. If you are interested in assisting trip leaders, contact Linda at linnet@erols.com Saturday afternoon workshops include the Kaufman Butterflies for Birders, and a Dragonfly workshop by Dr. Richard Orr.

This year's Silent Auction and Raffle proceeds will go to two worthy organizations: the new Youth Birding program of the Audubon Naturalist Society and Second Chance Wildlife Center, a wildlife rehabilitation facility. Members of both groups will be present during the weekend for you to meet. Please consider donating items for the Silent Auction and Raffle to help these groups. Contact Janelle Dietrich at 301-249-7155 or lovewhales@ccconline.net for Auction items and Howard Lefkowitz at 301- 649-3373 or wa3vez@comcast.net for Raffle items.

To volunteer help with the Auction or Raffle during the conference, please contact Janelle or Howard.

We are still looking for local artists. Do you know of a wildlife/nature artist from Montgomery, Howard or Prince George's County? If so, please contact Dale Johnson with their names. Dale can be reached at 410-687-7743 or CKADJ@juno.com

Gwen Brewer is in search of presenters for Research Posters Session. Please contact her with names of potential presenters who will display during the Wine and Cheese Social on Sunday. Gwen can be reached at 301-843-3524 or gbrewer@comcast.net

The Wildlife Authority will be the bird and nature gift/book store vendor at the Bolger Center. Expect great items and prices. If you would like to get something specifically from them please contact them at 410-465-5007 or wildlifeauthor.@aol.com

If you are willing to help with the Conference please contact Local Conference Coordinator Mike Bowen at (301) 530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com or Conference Chairman Mike Callahan at 301-490-9318 or raptorsrule@juno.com If you have not received your 2003 Conference brochure in the mail by the end of February, please contact Mike Callahan.

Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting

September 14, 2002

President: Paul Zucker
Vice President: Janet Millenson
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Secretary: Janet Shields
Executive Secretary: Eric Sprague
Past President: Karen Morley

Atlas: Walter Ellison
Conference: Mike Callahan
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Long-range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford

Allegany: not represented
Anne Arundel: Phil Davis, Al Haury, Dotty Mumford, Norm Saunders, Paul Speyser
Baltimore: Jeanne Bowman, Helene Gardel, Joy Wheeler
Caroline: Danny Poet
Carroll: Maureen Harvey, Bob Ringler
Cecil: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Frederick: Doug Parker, Nancy Parker
Harford: Joe Vangrin
Howard: Mike Callahan, Kurt Schwarz, Martha Waugh
Kent: Walter Ellison
Montgomery: Laura Appelbaum, Sam Freiberg, Don Simonson, Ann Weeks
Patuxent: Fred Fallon, Tom Loomis
Talbot: Shirley Bailey, Wayne Bell
Tri-County: Elizabeth Pitney
Washington: Janet Shields

President Paul Zucker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Wayne Bell, president of the Talbot chapter, welcomed us to Horsehead Wetlands Center. Paul Zucker introduced Chris Snow, naturalist at Horsehead. Chris gave a short talk presenting an overview of Horsehead. There are about 226 species of birds found at Horsehead. With help from MOS, Horsehead was able to purchase the Wanuga property and went from 310 acres to almost 500 acres. As a result, Horsehead considers us an affiliated organization, and we consider Horsehead to be an affiliated sanctuary. It was also mentioned that MOS members have free entry to the Horsehead site.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Under the Committee Reports for Research, the two projects submitted recently were for orioles and gadwalls, not two oriole projects. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Shiras Guion informed the board that the Maryland sales tax exemption certificate has been reissued to MOS and will run through 9/30/2007. Copies of the certificate were handed out to the board members. Shiras presented the Treasurer's Report for September 1, 2002, which was accepted by the board.

President's Remarks: Paul Zucker announced that we have two new committee chairs. Martha Waugh is our new Investment chair, and Helene Gardel is the new chair of the Budget Committee. There are a number of committee chair openings: these are Conference, Gifts, Nominations, and Publicity. Also needed are a merchandise manager, a sanctuary manager and a World Series of Birding Team manager.

Paul then made some comments about where he sees MOS coming from and where it is going in the future. MOS is undertaking a lot of things and Paul gave his views as to how this all fits together. In the past MOS has been an inwardly directed group, focusing mainly on itself and its members. As a result, MOS has ended up being a somewhat aging and shrinking group. An exception to that trend has been the scholarship program. Now there is a lot of interest in reversing that trend. In the last several years, MOS has begun to be involved with EFM and other conservation groups. We have felt the need to reach out, and that is a good thing. MOS has gotten its finances in order. The half-million dollar bequest to the organization has given us the funds to reach out in new directions. Our goals have moved towards diversifying our activities and increasing our involvement in the community. This will help us to obtain new members and revitalize our present membership. Paul thinks this trend to reach out is important for us to continue.

Review of Action Items: Paul Zucker reviewed the actions items from the previous board meeting and the progress made since then:

1. The Sanctuary Committee's response to the Partners in Flight report is on the MOS website. The sanctuary maps still need to be updated.
2. Sanctuary Planning Committee recommendations regarding the tasks and job load for a new sanctuary coordinator will be discussed during the committee reports today.
3. Having the chapters publicize the opening for a sanctuary coordinator will be discussed during the committee reports today.
4. There have been no requests from chapters to put local items into the Logo Shop. This will be an on-going item.
5. Karen Morley is working on a summary of the new insurance coverage. All of the policies are now up to date.
6. The Atlas Committee has copies of insurance information for atlasers and copies are on the website and in the *Yellowthroat*.
7. Karen Morley made a list of exchange journals, which was published in the September/October, 2002, *Yellowthroat*.
8. Marcia Watson-Whitmyre will discuss the retreat at today's meeting and information will be mailed to the entire MOS membership.
9. The chapters need to discuss and publicize the retreat with their membership after this board meeting.
10. The Executive Committee has reviewed the Long-range Planning Committee recommendations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference: Mike Callahan announced that the first meeting of the 2003 Conference Committee would be on September 24th at the Bolger Center. Local hosts for the May 16, 17, 18, 2003, Conference are the Montgomery, Howard, and Patuxent chapters. Mike reminded the board that a new Conference Committee chairman is need for next year and asked that an announcement be made at local chapter meeting asking for a volunteer for the position. Mike also asked for suggestions for the location of the 2004 conference.

Education: Van Vogel was not able to attend. In his absence, Paul Zucker announced that Van is continuing his programs for young birders with three middle schools in his area.

Investment: Martha Waugh, the new chairman of the Investment Committee, reported that, per the MOS Manual of Operations, the committee consists of four members, including the chairman and the treasurer (as a non-voting member). She feels fortunate to have Larry Fry and Bob Balestri join her on the committee. They have met twice for very productive sessions and have been corresponding quite often. Members have done research in their particular areas of knowledge. Martha has had a long, detailed meeting with the MOS broker and his team, Bro Tubman of Ferris, Baker Watts, Inc. On Tuesday, they are meeting with Derek Ehman, the specific member of that team charged with MOS affairs, and our MOS president, Paul Zucker.

The committee wants to be sure that the MOS monies are as safely invested as is possible, bearing in mind that there is always, inevitably, some risk, especially when we must earn enough income to help MOS achieve its goals. There is a great deal to do at the moment because our funds need to be reevaluated and some monies reinvested. In addition, the $300,000 from the Schenkel bequest to be used for the Education and Sanctuary Committees must be prudently and profitably invested.

To date, the committee has thoroughly reviewed the MOS financial picture and have sold a number of securities that were not contributing income for our needs. They will be using this money plus the $300,000 to achieve a portfolio that will earn as much income as is possible within safety boundaries. To further the transparency of these decisions and activities, Martha has made available to the chairman of each committee with a fund (Education, Atlas, Research, Sanctuary, Scholarship) a copy of the fund's holdings on September 3, 2002, and a note on what has been done in that fund through September 14.

The Investment Committee has four goals: guarding the safety of the MOS monies, providing the income necessary to MOS projects, establishing the continuity of investment oversight, and providing transparency to the Board and to the MOS membership.

Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford announced that there would be a workday at Irish Grove on November 2 - 3, 2002. The Sanctuary Committee is in the process of having regional meetings to discuss the Partners in Flight management plans and the proposed mission statement and structure of the committee. On August 17, 2002, there was a meeting in Easton to discuss Mill Creek, Merango Woods and Pelot Sanctuaries. On August 24th there was a meeting to discuss Carey

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Run Sanctuary. The regional meeting for Irish Grove is planned for November 3.

People participating at the Easton meeting felt conservation easements should be obtained for Mill Creek and Pelot. This would be through the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and needs approval of the MOS Board of Directors.

Mill Creek will have a workday in late March 2003 to mark trails, thin trees along the road, prune multiflora rose and clean the shelter. The possibility of deer hunting at Mill Creek is being considered with Jan Reese investigating leasing contracts. The board felt that a decision on hunting should be looked at as part of our long-range planning (and therefore wait until after the retreat). The hunting decision may then be made as a board after it has been determined how it will affect our image and plans.

At Marengo Woods it was decided to make a boundary trail. Les Roslund will work on maintaining rapport with local landowners. At Pelot Bill Scudder is working on a few simple bridges to cross over wet areas.

At Carey Run Dotty met with Gary Marfoot from Garrett County Soil Conservation District to determine if we would qualify for the WHIP program in which the state helps with the cost of improving wildlife habitat. There is a good possibility that Carey Run will qualify for this program, but it will still require supervision and some costs by MOS. There was a meeting August 24 with the some members of the Sanctuary Committee and local MOS members interested in Carey Run. At that time a recommendation was given by a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as to the restoration of the natural flow of water off a hill to create vernal pools at the base of the hill. Dotty will report back to the board on both the WHIP program and the Corps of Engineers' plan. It was also suggested by MOS members present that a pavilion be built for use as a learning center to help Chuck Hager with his summer classes and others who would care to use it. Doug Parker is drawing up plans to propose to the committee.

Currently there is a budget position for a Sanctuary Coordinator approved to coordinate activities at all of the sanctuaries to be paid $2,400 per year. It has not been possible to fill the position. Dotty Mumford has a couple, both biologists, who are interested in being Sanctuary Coordinators for Carey Run only. Because it is unlikely that one person could travel repeatedly to both Carey Run and Irish Grove, it was moved and seconded that the position be split into two with $1,200 per year to be available to each. The motion was approved

Scholarship: Jean Fry was unable to attend. She asked Paul Zucker to announce that applications are now being accepted from Maryland teachers, park rangers, youth leaders, and nature center coordinators for scholarships to attend summer ecology workshops. Jean requested that chapter presidents, state science organizations, and the public be solicited for scholarship applicants.

Atlas: Walter Ellison gave the Atlas Committee report. Our grant proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust was not accepted. There will be a grant submitted to the Maryland Costal Bays Program. MD DNR has offered $20,000 in CARA money for this year. Because signing a contract is involved in receiving CARA money, we need to have a lawyer familiar with Maryland contract law evaluate the contract for us. Anyone who can suggest a lawyer for this job, notify Jane Coskren or Paul Zucker. Once a contract that is acceptable to both DNR and MOS is worked out, it may be used over the next five years that the CARA money will be available. Paul Zucker went to a Teaming with Wildlife meeting and discovered that $1,000,000 going to Maryland will be held by DNR. Paul brought this up at the Atlas Committee meeting, and Glen Therres from DNR thought it was reasonable for us to apply for $50,000 of this money for the next year.

The Howard County Chapter's matching atlas grant of $1,000 per year has $810 in matching funds so far. Walter announced that the atlas data entry site is up but the data review function is not up yet. He has given codes to all coordinators who can now enter their observers into the database and assign them to their respective blocks. Walter will write a walkthrough to post on the MOS website to instruct observers on how to enter their data at the Patuxent website. Walter also announced that we finally have access to power line right of ways. Currently 705 blocks are being covered out of a total of 1,285 blocks.

EFM: As Marcia Balestri was not able to attend, Paul Zucker gave her report. The EFM annual meeting was held on June 27 attended by Marcia and by Paul Zucker. New officers were elected: President, Wilton Corkern, Accokeek Foundation; Vice President, Andy Fellows, Clean Water Fund; Secretary, Susanna Engvall, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage; Treasurer, Susan Barrett, Bay Ridge Trust. In August EFM had a two-day retreat to review the last ten years and formulate a plan for the future. MOS has received $609.04 from EFM since the beginning of the MOS fiscal year (May 1, 2002) and received $1,268.93 since March (Marcia's last report). For this past fiscal year (May 1, 2001 to April 30, 2002), MOS received a total of $3,716.57 from the 1999 and 2000 campaigns.

Conservation: Maureen Harvey reported that DNR has drafted a mute swan management plan, which was made available to the public in July. Glenn Therres and DNR are asking for comments on the plan from the public. The full plan and guidelines for commenting are provided on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.md.us. The comment period is open until September 20, 2002.

Also, a Pennsylvania power company is proposing to install an array of 24 x 425 ft. windmills on the boarder of Garrett and Allegany Counties. The windmill blades are 100 ft. long. The windmills are considerably taller than the recommended high limit of 250 ft. for communications towers. These windmills will not be good for migrating birds.

Long-range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre announced in June that the Long-range Planning Committee had met, reviewed all of the committee plans sent to them, and as an outcome produced a report. Marcia gave a summary of that report at the last board meeting. They were able to come up with some operational points that the organization as a whole needs to work on in order to allow the committees to do their work. They were not able to prioritize the things the committees need to do. The Executive Committee met with Marcia and decided to go ahead and have a one-day retreat on November 9, 2002, at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Howard County. MOS will provide lunch. Joe Hickey, whom Marcia has worked with before, will act as facilitator. Marcia and the Executive Committee will compose an agenda. The retreat will be open to all MOS members; they will be sent a letter inviting them to attend.

Marcia's committee report also gave recommendations in regards to MOS operations. The first recommendation was to help strengthen the membership of MOS and suggested appointing a new committee on membership to study issues mentioned in the report. Paul Zucker explained that the Executive Committee felt that appointing a committee was a little premature. However, they did agree with the basic idea and are establishing a Membership and Outreach Taskforce to look into these issues. Paul is appointing Janet Millenson to lead the taskforce. Anyone interested in serving on this taskforce should contact Janet.

The second recommendation of the Long-range Planning Committee was to strengthen the committee structure within MOS, including consideration of combining some related committees. The report recommends we charge the Bylaws Committee to study these issues. The Executive Committee felt that this was not an issue at this point for the Bylaws Committee. It thinks the retreat will help address this and it should be an action item in the long run for the Executive Committee to make a proposal and then have board discussion. Based on the board's decisions, the Bylaws Committee will revise the bylaws.

The Long-range Planning Committee's third recommendation talks about strengthening the financial position of MOS and recommends appointing a taskforce to study this. Paul explained that some of the priority issues would be addressed at the retreat. Then it will be primarily up to the Executive Committee and the Budget Committee to decide what to implement. No need for a taskforce at this time. Paul also explained that the Executive Committee would be looking into improving the processing of gifts to MOS.

The fourth recommendation of the Long-range Planning Committee was to institutionalize the planning process by building it into an annual report. Paul Zucker explained that the Executive Committee felt that it was not appropriate to publish an annual report at this time.

Also at the Executive Board meeting, it was noted that the issue of electronic communications kept coming up. Paul has appointed Eric Sprague to head up a taskforce to look into the issue of electronic publications and communications.

Some MOS members have expressed an interest in a local birding trail. Paul Zucker thinks

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it is a good idea for MOS to participate in a project to form a Maryland birding trail. It would another way of reaching out and giving MOS name recognition. MOS would be working with other organizations on this project. Marcia Balestri is looking into the possibility of MOS participation in a birding trail project and will report back to the board.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership List: An updated membership list is automatically given to the Executive Secretary. This list can be made available to any board member upon their request.

NEW BUSINESS

Conference Pin: A question was asked regarding the recognition provided for the designer of the MOS Conference pin. It was explained that the designer receives one of the large canvas bags with the color picture of the conference pin on the side. A picture of the pin also is on the front cover of the conference program and the person is recognized during the Saturday night program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

University of Maryland Central Farms: Paul Zucker announced that Bonnie Ott has volunteered to be a point of contact for people interested in birding at the University of Maryland's Central Farms in Howard County. There is a letter of permission required to bird this area, which Bonnie has.

December Board Meeting: Paul Zucker announced the next board meeting will be December 7, 2002, in Washington County. Paul thanked the Talbot chapter for hosting our meeting and providing refreshments.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. Chapter presidents should inform their members of the date and location of the MOS retreat.
2. Dotty Mumford is to gather more information on the conservation easements for the Eastern Shore sanctuaries. She will also report back to the board with information on using the WHIP program and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers report, both in reference to Carey Run.
3. Chapter presidents should ask for recommendations of legal help to give advice on the proposed DNR contract asking for Atlas funding.
4. Applications need to be submitted for education scholarship. Chapter presidents should look for possible local applicants.
5. Chapter presidents should publicize the need for Sanctuary Coordinators.

President Paul Zucker declared the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Shields, Secretary

MOS Activities, March-April 2003

Saturday, March 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Diverse habitats include a stream, woods and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact the leader, Keith Eric Costley, at 410-521-5366 or oriolekec1@aol.com.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird walk at Piney Run Park. Trip leader Dave Harvey is promising waterfowl & cold weather. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the park gate on Martz Road in Sykesville. For more information, contact Dave at 410-795-3117.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Black Hills Regional Park for waterfowl, late winter birds, and early spring migrants. Meet at Urbana Park & Ride South Lot at 7:30 a.m. Call Doug or Nancy Parker (301-663-1909) for information.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Broad Creek. Join the local birdwatching team of Jean and Larry Fry while they comb the conifers and associated woodlands of Broad Creek in search of winter finches and woodland residents. In the past, crossbills and siskins have been reported. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Dublin Elementary School. For details, contact Jean or Larry at 410-452-8539.

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Bird walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. No reservation needed. Meet at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518.

Sunday, March 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterfowl and land birds; Bald Eagle, Bluebirds possible. Telescopes useful. Two-mile level walk. Beginning birders welcome. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on Stone Hill Road off of Dulaney Valley Road. For further information, contact the leader, Debbie Terry, at 410-252-8771 or gt5s@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. "Butterflies and Orchids" at the Smithsonian. Longing for spring? Want a taste of the tropics? Thousands of orchids will be used to create a dazzling display. Hundreds of butterflies will be flitting through the jungle atmosphere. An art exhibit of drawing and carvings should give us plenty to explore. We will plan on eating lunch at a nearby establishment. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Park & Ride. We will carpool to the Greenbelt Metro to ride to The Arts and Industries Building. Call Bonnie Ott for info at 410-461-3361 or check the web at www.smithsonian.org.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Easton and vicinity in quest of: earliest migrants, including Osprey and Laughing Gull. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Jan Reese, at 410-745-2875.

Tuesday, March 4

MEETING. Baltimore. "Veracruz, Mexico: A River of Raptors and Much More" by Bob Rineer. 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood House at Cromwell Valley Park. Follow signs in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.3 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A.

Wednesday, March 5

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist Jim Peters in the National Aquarium's project of surveying bird activity around a 10-acre man-made (mitigated) wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m. at the Carroll County Community Senior Activities Center, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster, MD. For more information, contact Tammy Schwaab at 410-857-4913.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Timberdoodle Watch. Join the team of Powers and Bowers to witness the nuptial displays of the American Woodcock. Phil and Debbie will go to an area likely to have displaying woodcock (weather permitting). Since they display at dusk, meet at 6:00 PM at the Wal-Mart on Rt. 40 in Aberdeen. For further details, contact Phil at 410-679-4116.

Thursday, March 6

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Richard E. Heise. Jr. Annual Wildlife Program. Program TDA. 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis.

MEETING. Frederick. Dr. Robert Trever will present "Birding in Belize." Meet at WAVERLY Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Call Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098) for details and directions. PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

Friday, March 7

MEETING. Harford. Program TBA. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-879-0642.

Saturday, March 8

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing for Woodcocks. Meet at 4:30 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Kathie Lambert at 410-867-4056.

Sunday, March 9

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Cecil Waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the North East Plaza Acme Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Chris Starling, at 410-287-4223.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Muddy Run. Check out fields and forest of the Holtwood Dam area, just north of Conowingo in Lancaster County. This

MOS Activities, March-April 2003

area of can be unpredictable, where anything from Northern Goshawk to Shrike can be seen. Les Eastman is your leader. Meet at the Conowingo Visitor Center parking lot (north off of Rt. 1 just before the dam) at 8:00 a.m. For questions call 410-734-6969 or email Les at les@birdtreks.com.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Easton Wastewater Treatment Facility, in quest of: ducks, gulls, White-crowned and Fox Sparrows. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Terry Allen, at 410-822-8132.

Thursday, March 13

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Mariner Point Park. Join leader Tom Congersky for a leisurely walk along the asphalt trails of this waterfront park in Joppa. Excellent trip for beginners and seniors. Waterfowl, shorebirds, sparrows, and blackbirds will be targets. Meet at the park at 7:30 a.m. For questions, call Tom at 410-676-6489.

Meeting. Howard. "Identification Tips for Confusing Howard County Birds," by David Holmes. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Kurt Schwarz at 410-461-1643.

MEETING. Talbot. "Birds and Culture of Peru" by Gary Van Velsir from the Anne Arundel Chapter. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Maryland Room (basement) of the SunTrust Bank, Goldsboro and Harrison Streets in Easton.

Saturday, March 15

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Middle Creek WMA. Visit this major gathering place for Snow Geese and other waterfowl north of Lancaster PA. There is also an excellent display of mounted birds in its visitor center. Note: Trip may end up going elsewhere if Middle Creek's reservoir is frozen over. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Timonium Park & Ride on Greenspring Drive / Deerco Rd. off Timonium Road just east of I-83. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103 or by e-mail at tanager@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Saturday monitoring walks at Fort. McHenry wetlands. Canceled if raining. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Peters, at 410-429-0966.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Owl Prowl. Marcia Balestri will organize 4 teams to be led by Mike Welch, Dave Smith, Wilbur Hershberger, and Marcia to look for owls in Frederick County. Call Marcia (301-473-5098) to sign up. We will gather afterwards for breakfast afterwards to compare notes.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. "Signs of Spring" at Bon Secours. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the grounds of the spiritual center. The birds will be gearing up for spring and should be quite vocal. Open fields and woodlands offer a variety of habitats. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the visitor parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Michele Wright, at 410-465-6057.

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Annual cleanup at Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518.

Sunday, March 16

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Trip to area ponds and Jug Bay for waterfowl, gulls. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride at 1:00 p.m. For further information, contact the leader, Fred Fallon, at 301-249-1518.

Tuesday, March 18

MEETING. Allegany. "Northern Goshawk: Birds Driven By Their Prey" by Dave Brinker. Meet at the Board of Education Bldg., 108 Washington St., Cumberland at 7 p.m. Contact JB Churchill at 304-292-5072 for info.

Wednesday, March 19

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Timberdoodle Watch II. Now you have a second chance this year to witness the mating rituals of the American Woodcock. Meet at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart at 5:30 PM. Lynn Davis and Joe Vangrin are your leaders. For questions, call 410-838-1921.

Thursday, March 20

MEETING. Caroline. "Neighborhood Nestwatch." By Bob Reitsma of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St., Denton.

Saturday, March 22

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Smithsonian Research Center, Anne Arundel County for woodland birds and waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Paul Fofonoff, at 410-867-7971.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Blackwater NWR & Beyond. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Piney Run in Carroll County. We'll be looking for late winter waterfowl and maybe really early spring migrants. Meet at Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park (2nd Street just west of College Terrace) at 7:30 a.m. For information contact Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098).

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Elliotts Island. Check out a part of the eastern shore still reminiscent of how it used to be. Join Mark Johnson in a tour of historic Elliotts Island with a possible excursion to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the I-95/Rt. 152 Park-n-Ride (north lot). For details call 410-692-5978 or email: MSandDLJohnson@aol.com

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Triadelphia Reservoir. Explore the birding areas of the reservoir. Looking for migrant waterfowl. Bald Eagle and Pine Warbler likely. Moderate walking, some hills. Will be driving to different locations. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Brighton Dam Lot. For further information, contact the leader, Stan Arnold, at 410-768-0155.

Sunday, March 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. First of a series of casual self-guided spring walks. Meet other birders at the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Looking for migrant waterfowl. Early swallows possible and other signs of spring migration. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end parking lot. For further information, contact the leaders, Kevin Heffernan, at 410-418-8731 or Karen Darcy at 410-552-9342

Monday, March 24

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. Tri-County. Meet at 6:00 p.m. Wicomico Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Tuesday, March 25

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Two or three hours and miles of walking, early departure possible. Some uneven terrain and steep dikes optional at far end. Spring migrant songbirds. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons possible after March. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Adelaide Rackemann, at 410-823-4709.

Wednesday, March 26

MEETING. Cecil. Jerry Newman, "The Bluebird Man" will give a video presentation on bluebird habitat establishment and preservation, nestboxes and trail monitoring Meet at 7 p.m. at the Elkton High School Library located in Elkton, MD. For further information, contact Rick Lee at 410-287-0415.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake. Easy walking along the lake and wooded stream. Phoebe, Cedar Waxwings and early migrants possible. Bird feeders along the path may also host interesting species. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the boat dock. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

Saturday, March 29

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Waterfowl Wander in Frederick County. Gary Smyle will lead on a search for wintering waterfowl at Kirschner's Pond, Lily Pons, Potomac River, and other hot spots. Meet at Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park (2nd Street just west of College Terrace) at 7:30 a.m. For information call Gary (301-663-0055).

Sunday, March 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Jerusalem Mill – Join Phil Powers for a walk along the trails surrounding the historic Gunpowder Mill. Woodpeckers, sparrows and early migrants are probable in this mix of old fields and riparian forest. Meet Phil at the mill parking lot (Jerusalem Rd. and the Little

MOS Activities, March-April 2003

Gunpowder River) or call 410-679-4116 for directions.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Many spring birds arriving including Brown Thrashers, Towhees, Chipping Sparrows. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Harry Fink, at 301-642-7024.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Deal Island WMA for lingering waterfowl and early migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north parking lot of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact the leader, Sam Dyke, at 410-742-5497.

Tuesday, April 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Mary Chetelat, at 410-665-0769.

Wednesday, April 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist Jim Peters in the National Aquarium's project of surveying bird activity around a 10-acre man-made (mitigated) wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

Thursday, April 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. First in a series of 4 walks, each Thursday in April. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers.. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Frederick. Don Messersmith will give a presentation on "Natural History of the Galapagos Islands." Meet at Monocacy Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Call Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098) for details.

Friday, April 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Topic TBA. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6

Irish Grove Sanctuary, Somerset County. Work and birding weekend. Call Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336 by Mar. 31 to sign on for the weekend.

Saturday, April 5

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Garrett County Ponds. Roy Brown will again lead us to the frozen tundra of Garrett County to see what if anything has survived the winter. If Garrett County is still encased in ice, we'll mosey on down to Allegany County (aka. "Little Florida"). Hopefully we can have a picnic lunch at New Germany State Park. Meet at Parkside in LaVale at 9 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Vesper Sparrow Search. Very difficult walking though wet areas and fields in search of sparrows. Horned Lark and Pipit likely. Possible shorebirds and dabbling ducks. High boots a necessity. Meeting time TBA (dawn). Limit to 12 people. Call the leader, Bonnie Ott, to reserve a spot at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Nature Walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. No reservation needed. Meet at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518.

Sunday, April 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Mt. Harmon Plantation & Grove Neck Sanctuary. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Parke John, at 410-287-6037.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Glen. Join Debbie Bowers for an enjoyable walk through the varied habitats at Harford Glen. Meet at Harford Glen at 8:30 a.m. For details call Debbie at 410-692-9741 or bowerspub@hotmail.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Time for Blue-winged Teal, Common Loons and Ospreys to arrive. Lingering waterfowl possible. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

Tuesday, April 8

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Patsy Perlman, at 410-466-3998.

Wednesday, April 9

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Wednesday Evenings At Fort McHenry. Canceled if raining. Meet 8:00 p.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Peters, at 410-429-0966.

Thursday, April 10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

Meeting. Howard "Maryland's Great Outdoors," by Middleton Evans, nature photographer and author. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Kurt Schwarz at 410-461-1643.

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Eastern Shore Overnight. Marcia Balestri will lead us on an overnight trip to the Eastern Shore to visit various sites including Deal Island, E.A.Vaughn, Taylor Landing, Irish Grove, and Assateague to look for spring migrants and local residents. Meet Saturday at Urbana Park & Ride South Lot at 6:00 a.m. For details call Marcia (301-473-5098).

Saturday, April 12

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Fort Smallwood. Bring lawn chairs, lunch, a cooler, and sun-tan lotion for a day of armchair birding as the hawks fly over. Admission charge to get into the park. Trip will not go if rain threatens or an unfavorable wind is blowing. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Nursery Rd.-Hammonds Ferry Rd. Park & Ride at I-695 Beltway exit 8. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Lev, at 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Fort McHenry Clean-Up. Help restore this mitigated marsh by removing debris and planting native vegetation. Rain or shine. Register in advance with the Aquarium volunteer office at 410-576-3886. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Conowingo Wildflowers & Birds Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fishermen's Park Parking Lot at Conowingo Dam. For further information contact the leader, Ken Drier, at 410-658-9955.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Beginner's Birding By Ear Walk at Gwynn Acres. Easy walking on paved path through the woods. Will be concentrating on listening to the spring singing of our residents. Learn tips and techniques on differentiating the songs of our common birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the fence on Old Columbia and Ram's Horn Row. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

Sunday, April 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Bombay Hook. Travel to one of Delaware's hotspots in search of waterfowl and early migrants. Bring funds for entry ($4/car). Meet at the MD 155/I-95 Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m. Call David Larkin for details at 410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Caspian Tern, Bonaparte's Gulls and thrushes start to appear. Early warblers possible, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated and Palm. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Kurt Schwarz, at 410-461-1643.

Monday, April 14

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn. Easy walk around the lake on paved path. Woodland and waterbirds possible. Forbay pond may host some herons or shorebirds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Broken Land Parkway lot. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

MOS Activities, March-April 2003

Tuesday, April 15

MEETING. Allegany. "Falconry" by Floyd Presley. ". Floyd will bring one of his hawks for viewing and if space is large enough, may even have it fly around. Meet at the Board of Education Bldg., 108 Washington St., Cumberland at 7 p.m. Contact Barbara Gaffney at 301-895-4646 for information.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Matilda Weiss, at 410-337-2732.

Wednesday, April 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Wednesday Evenings At Fort McHenry. Canceled if raining. Meet 8:00 p.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Peters, at 410-429-0966.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Identification of Spring Warblers by Sight and Sound" by Peter Webb, Baltimore County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

Thursday, April 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers.. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Caroline. "Effects of El Nino on Migratory Birds". By Scott Sillett, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St., Denton.

Saturday, April 19

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Piney Orchard Nature Walk in wetlans, fields and woods. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Huntley Meadows. Trip to northern Virginia freshwater marsh with boardwalk trail for resident wildlife and spring migrants. Coots, Canada Geese on nests, turtles, water snakes and other water wildlife allowing close approach and good views. American Bittern, Sora both possible. Two to three hour (and mile) level walk on paved paths and boardwalks. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride at Beltway Exit 8. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217 or email pwebb@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Saturday monitoring walks at Fort. McHenry wetlands. Canceled if raining. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Peters, at 410-429-0966.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Horsehead Wetland Center for waterfowl & spring migrants. MOS members: free admission on presentation of MOS green card; non-MOS members must pay entry fee. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leaders, Rick & Candi Lee, at 410-287-0415.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate to vigorous walking on woodland paths and wet grass areas. Woodlands, fields and the river offer a wide variety of habitats. Early warblers and vireos likely. Possible Red-headed Woodpeckers and sparrows. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Trotter Road parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Ron Polniaszek, at 410-531-6658.

Sunday, April 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southwest Area Park and the Baltimore Harbor. Birds to look for will include pheasants, swallows and terns. Meet at Southwest Area Park. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Dave Walbeck, at 410-757-0112 or email: dwalbeck@mde.state.md.us.

Tuesday, April 22

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Dot Gustafson, at 410-377-4120.

Wednesday, April 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Wednesday Evenings At Fort McHenry. Canceled if raining. Meet 8:00 p.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Peters, at 410-429-0966.

Thursday, April 24

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Look for early migrant birds. Watch spring progress with a remarkable variety of wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

Saturday-Sunday, April 26-27

Carey Run, Garrett County. Work and birding weekend. Call Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336 by Apr. 31 to sign on for the weekend.

Saturday, April 26

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Marriottsville Warblers. Resident warblers and songbirds on trail along Patapsco River below Liberty Dam. Barred Owl possible. Perhaps the best location in Baltimore County to see Yellow-throated warbler. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Paul Noell, at 410-243-2652.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Breakfast with the Birds at Cylburn Mansion. Co-hosted by Cylburn Arboretum Association. Breakfast at 8 am, costs $2. Birding starts at 8:30 am, no charge. For reservations call 410-367-2217.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Thompson WMA, VA. Lois Kauffman will lead a trip to look for wildflowers and early migrants. Meet at Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park (2nd Street just west of College Terrace) at 6:30 a.m. For information contact Lois (301-845-6690).

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Susquehanna State Park. Enjoy the colors of spring wildflowers and early-migrant songbirds. Flowers expected include Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Purple Trillium, and Trout Lily; the birdlist might include Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. Early birders can meet at the Rock Run Mill at 6:30 a.m. to look for early birds; late risers and flower peepers can meet there at 8:30 a.m. for an easily paced morning walk along Stafford Road. For further information, contact Les Eastman at 410-734-6969 or les@birdtreks.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Wildflowers and Butterflies at Savage Park. Easy walking though this wooded park. Savage has areas with a good variety of wild flowers and sections that offer flight paths for butterflies. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the concession stand in Savage Park. For further information, contact the leaders, Bob Solem at 301-725-5037 or Dick Smith at 410-997-7439.

Sunday, April 27

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. Field and wood habitat. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, George Thomas, at 410-647-5082.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Birding Woodstock. Expect to observe a variety of birds with up to 16 species of warblers. Boots recommended; part of the hiking loop may be muddy. Meet at 7:30 a.m. where Old Court Road crosses the Patapsco River. Cross the bridge and park just beyond the railroad tracks. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Keith Eric Costley, at 410-521-5366 or oriolekec1@aol.com.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. For further information, call coordinator Joe Lewandowski at 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Chimney Swifts In Hampton. See migrating Chimney Swifts at dusk as they pour into chimneys at the Bookbindery and/or the Mill Center. Last year at this time, more than 3,000 Swifts entered the Hampton chimneys. If weather is cloudy or gray, come up to 1 hour earlier, as the Swifts will enter the chimney earlier. Canceled if raining. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Bookbindery, 3110 Elm Avenue, Baltimore. For further information and directions, contact the leaders, Carol Schreter, at 410-664_5151 or cschreter@earthlink.net and Alice Nelson at alandme@juno.com

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Eastern Howard County. We will explore a variety of birding areas in this corner of the county including Patapsco Valley State Park. We will drive to different locations and visit a range of habitats. Moderate to difficult walking, hiking shoes needed. Dual start times (early birders- 6:00 a.m./ 7:00 a.m. for trip). Meet at the McDonalds on US 1 (across from the old drive in theater, just north of Montgomery Road). For further information, contact the leader, Stan Arnold, at 410-768-0155.

(continued on page 3, column 1)

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL MOS MEMBERS:

Thinking of Buying Your Optics Online?

If you're considering buying optics in the near future and if you're thinking of buying them online from Eagle Optics, did you know that 5% of your purchase price could be refunded to MOS? It's true! Let me tell you how.

When you have browsed Eagle Optics website to your heart's content and you're just about ready to pull out that credit card and order your dream binoculars or that scope you've wanted for years, take a moment and first point your web browser to the MOS website at ***http://www.mdbirds.org***.

Near the top of the opening page of the MOS website you'll see a box labelled "Eagleoptics.com Optics for Birders." Clicking on this box will take you back to Eagle Optics but with one very important difference. Any purchases you make now will result in 5% being refunded directly to MOS.

No kidding—this really works! Already MOS has received refunds of over $150 and we have only talked about this feature at one MOS Board Meeting!

So, get those new optics you've been salivating over and earn some money for MOS at the same time! Just point to ***www.mdbirds.org*** then go from there to Eagle Optics via the link at the top of the opening page.

The copy deadline for the May/Jun issue of the Yellowthroat is March 25 for chapter activities and April 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for May through August to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-436-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other submissions to the editor:

Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-691-5707

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